

Rasing Legendary Chicks #11

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Category: PokÃ©mon

Language: English

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2000-06-21 09:00:00

Updated: 2000-06-21 09:00:00

Packaged: 2016-04-27 20:46:44

Rating: K

Chapters: 1

Words: 944

Publisher: www.fanfiction.net

Summary: number 11

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> <meta name="Generator"> Chapter 11

Chapter 11

The chicks are a little over a year old now, actually 12.5 months.

All of them are almost at full adult size. The only difference is that they still have a little down on top of

their regular feathers and they look a little scraggly. They have all the flight feathers. (The Lugia's wing

looks perfect for flight.)

It's time for them to learn how to fly, and Jake, Christina, and I have been waiting for almost a full year

for this. In one of the aviaries, where they've been situated since they were 8 months old, we could see

them flapping their wings and trying to jump off a high ledge or branch, but always have a clumsy

landing or just a plain CRASH.

The main workers at the breeding center have been waiting for this time, too, and they are telling us to

wait for a nice, windy day.

Three days later, we were in luck. There were major gusts of wind in the area, and the time for us to

see if they can truly fly.

We put the chicks into their pokeballs, and then took a walk with two of the workers out to a very hilly,

grassy, open area.

"Okay," said the woman worker. "We'll send all the chicks out at the same time so they can test their

wings, and maybe give each other feedback. Who knows, maybe Pokemon really do that."

"Yup, and we'll encourage them," added the man worker.

I turned to Christina and Jake.

"Ready?"

"All set!" said Jake.

"I'm ready!" said Christina.

"LET'S DO IT!" the three of us all said simultaneously, as we released the chicks from their pokeballs out

into the open.

"Zap? Zapdos!" Zapdos chirped, checking out the area.

"Arrrrrrti...articuno un," said Articuno, bracing itself against the wind while testing it.

"Lugi a. Gi," sqwaked Lugia, flapping its wings in anxiety to become airborne.

"Molt. Tres molts!" shouted Moltres, as it found out that this was the actual opportunity to try to fly.

"Oh, ho oh hohoho!" said Ho-Oh, also testing the wind.

"Come on. Try to fly," encouraged Christina.

"Yeah. Flap your wings like this: Ar! Ar! Ar!" said Jake, imitating a bird while flapping his arms. The

chicks looked at him strangely.

"Umm...follow their advice," I said.

"Ho?" asked Ho-Oh.

"Yeah," I said.

"Tre," commented Moltres.

"Ti!"

"Lu"

"Zap!"

The chicks then strutted out a little into the open, and then stood facing the wind. We could hear them

chirping to each other, probably giving the others encouragement, as the woman said.

After a while of flapping their wings and jumping into the air, we finally saw some improvement. The

Zapdos jumped up into the air while flapping its wings and stayed up for about two seconds, but it then

crash-landed. There were similar things with the others.

Then, THE MOMENT. Articuno then seemed to realize that they didn't get aloft from jumping. They

needed another method. Articuno then explained a new way to the others, and we couldn't understand

a single thing they were saying. Moltres seemed to agree, so did Zapdos. Ho-Oh then seemed to go

with the plan after a bit of hesitation. Lugia wasn't too sure, though. It was telling them of another way,

but then got argued at by the others. It then went with Articuno's plan.

They all turned facing the wind again. After testing the wind for a bit, they then ran as fast as they could

while flapping their wings in vain. It seemed as if they were running in a straight line endlessly and

would never stop. We all worried about if they ever did get into the air.

The chicks sprinted across the grassy land, avoiding fairly big hills, but preferring to run down hills to see

if they got lift. After they went too far out, they then turned and ran towards us.

The running, flapping chicks were headed straight at us. We moved over a bit so they could get through

if they didn't make it into the air then.

The chicks were straining hard. You could hear the heavy beating of wings from all five of them.

Moltres, the oldest, was sprinting across the vast plain, flapping its wings as hard as it could, when it

gave a major push against the ground with its legs. It pushed against

the ground, jumped a little against
the wind, flapped its wings, and was gliding low over the grass. It
was finally airborne. Articuno took off
close behind, followed by Ho-Oh, Lugia, and Zapdos.

The chicks then flapped and gained height as they soared over the
hilly area. We all cheered at their
accomplishment.

"WOOOOOOOOOOOOOO! WAY TO GO!" shouted the three of us. The two workers
were cheering as well.

Zapdos dove toward us in an attempted aerial stunt, and then flew up
when it almost hit us. Lugia

glided low over the grass, while Articuno, Moltres, and Ho-Oh were
flapping around the area.

They then all got into a group and climbed really high until they
were small specks in the sky. (Lugia

looked like it was a centimeter long when it really is 17 feet
tall.)

After flying, and us watching them fly for a while, they then landed
and ruffled their feathers. We

congratulated them on a job well done, called them back, and went
back to the breeding center.

For the next several weeks, we took them out for daily flights. They
became excellent fliers.

End
file.